



Dear Friends:

Thanks again for your many prayers as Bishop-elect Felipe Pulido transitions from here to the Diocese of San Diego as the new auxiliary bishop. As I mentioned at many of the masses this last weekend, this is the first time ever that a priest ordained for the Diocese of Yakima has been selected for the office of bishop as a successor to the apostles. This speaks well of all of you in the parish and all of the people across Central Washington whose lives we touch. We are a diocese that not only raises up priests, but bishops too!

I will miss Bishop-elect Felipe Pulido not only as a pastor here in Central Washington but his assistance and counsel in vocations as well as Vicar for Clergy. Bishop-elect Felipe Pulido will be ordained a bishop this coming September 28th 2023 in San Diego. We will provide more details as those become available but we will also be live streaming this event through FaceBook as well as projecting this event in the church at St. Joseph Kennewick for parishioners and students. I will be asking the school to accommodate and look at the day of instruction a bit differently.

I will be naming a new pastor shortly and will make the name public when I have finished contacting and reviewing all the other assignment recommendations from the priest placement board. In the meantime I am appointing Father Cesar Izquierdo as the canonical administrator of the parish. He will coordinate the transition team that will work to brief the new pastor on the parish, especially the priority areas, goals and objectives that you have done with "Servant Leadership" these last two years. The next pastor knows about this process and is prepared to pick up the reflective work done by so many in parish leadership.

The members of the transition team that I am appointing are: Deacon Bill Mich, Deacon Herman Farias, Deacon Juan Garcia, Chris Mertens (Finance Council) Catherine Gallant (St. Joseph

School) Viola and Ramon Mata (Guadalupe ministry) Angel Machado (Youth Leader) Juan Valencia (School and Parish Council) Jerry Johnson (Finance Ministry) Rick Barrickman (Knights of Columbus) and Debbie Henderson (Women's Guild of St. Joseph).

Like last time, Doug Rich from our diocesan staff will facilitate the work of the group. In advance I thank everyone involved in making this transition to the new pastor.

Doug is also working with school leadership. We should have had a couple of interviews for principals by the time you read this letter. We also will be looking at a backup plan if the right candidate does not surface to be principal of the school. As you pray for a new pastor, please also pray for the new principal as well as your school leadership!

Finally, let me note that the parish will be hosting a final reception for Bishop-elect Pulido on Sunday June 25th at 2 p.m. in Dillon Hall. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend due to my confirmation schedule in Grant County. But know that Bishop-elect Pulido is also going to be visiting the parishes he served here in Central Washington so we will have a second opportunity to thank him. He will be at Assumption in Peshastin/Cashmere at Our Lady of the Assumption on Friday, June 16 at the 6:00 PM Mass, as well as Our Lady of Fatima in Moses Lake on Saturday, June 17 for a parish potluck at 3:00 PM and at the 5:30 PM (English) and 7:30 PM (Mass in Spanish) and Saint Joseph in Yakima on Sunday, June 18 at the 8:30 AM Mass in English and the 11:00 AM Mass in Spanish.

Taken together, my hope is that beneath these many details you will detect the movement of the Holy Spirit renewing the Church at every level. Let us continue to be grateful to God for a new successor to the apostles, grateful to our Holy Father Pope Francis and grateful for the great privilege of being parishioners at St. Joseph here in Kennewick.

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima